The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Proclamation

Whereas, Young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free of the violence of racism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, ableism, and all forms of systemic oppression; and

Whereas, K-12 schools must be safe and liberatory learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, and from all communities that experience marginalization; and

Whereas, LGBTQI+ young people frequently experience bias-based harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline that increases the likelihood of entering the school-to-prison pipeline; and

Whereas, LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression; and

Whereas, Every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from the fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken away from them; and

Whereas, We must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools, including those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception,

Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March 15, 2023 to be,

Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Day

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of March, in the year two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

By Her Excellency

Maura T. Healey
Governor of the Commonwealth

Kimberley Driscoll
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts